

- 1 1. An apparatus for positively identifying an item, the apparatus comprising:
 - 2 a reader configured to read a coded identifier associated with the item;
 - 3 a capture module configured to capture a visual characteristic of the item; and
 - 4 a verification module configured to verify that the candidate item is associated with
 - 5 the coded identifier.
- 6
- 7 2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an association module configured to
- 8 associate the visual characteristic with a candidate item in a database.
- 9
- 10 3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a confirmation module configured to
- 11 confirm with a user that the candidate item is associated with the item.
- 12
- 13 4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a presentation module configured to
- 14 present to a user a plurality of candidate items associated with the visual characteristic of the
- 15 item and allow the user to identify from the plurality of candidate items a candidate item
- 16 corresponding to the item.
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- 18 5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a notification module configured to notify
- 19 a user whether the coded identifier is associated with the candidate item.
- 20
- 21 6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the database is configured to associate the visual
- 22 characteristic with the candidate item and the coded identifier.
- 23
- 24 7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a weight module configured to identify and
- 25 associate the weight of the item with the weight of the candidate item.
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1 8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the visual characteristic is selected from the group
2 consisting of color, size, shape, or texture.

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4 9. A user interface for positively identifying an item, the user interface comprising:
5 an input module configured to read a coded identifier associated with the item and to
6 capture a visual characteristic associated with the item;
7 a controller in communication with the input module, the controller configured to
8 receive the coded identifier and the visual characteristic from the input
9 module, associate the visual characteristic with a candidate item in a
10 database, and verify that the candidate item is associated with the coded
11 identifier; and
12 a confirmation module in communication with the controller, the confirmation
13 module configured to confirm that the candidate item is associated with the
14 item.

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16 10. The user interface of claim 9, further comprising a presentation module configured to
17 present to a user a plurality of candidate items associated with the visual characteristic of the
18 item and allow the user to identify from the plurality of candidate items a candidate item
19 corresponding to the item.

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21 11. The user interface of claim 9, further comprising a notification module configured to
22 notify a user whether the candidate item is associated with the coded identifier of the item.

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24 12. The user interface of claim 9, wherein the input module identifies and associates the
25 weight of the item with the weight of the candidate item.
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1 13. A system for positively identifying an item, the system comprising:

2 a checkout station comprising a reader configured to read a coded identifier of the
3 item and a capture module configured to capture a visual characteristic of the
4 item; and

5 a server in communication with the checkout station, the server comprising an
6 association module configured to associate the visual characteristic with a
7 candidate item in a database, and a verification module configured to verify
8 that the candidate item is associated with the coded identifier.
9

10 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the server is remote in relation to the checkout station.
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12 15. The system of claim 13, wherein the server communicates with a plurality of checkout
13 stations.
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15 16. A method for positively identifying an item, the method comprising:

16 reading a coded identifier associated with the item;

17 capturing a visual characteristic of the item;

18 associating the visual characteristic with a candidate item in a database; and

19 verifying that the candidate item is associated with the coded identifier.
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21 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising confirming with a user that the candidate
22 item is associated with the item.
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24 18. The method of claim 16, further comprising presenting to a user a plurality of candidate
25 items associated with the visual characteristic of the item and allowing the user to identify
26 from the plurality of candidate items a candidate item corresponding with the item.
27

1 19. The method of claim 16, further comprising notifying a user whether the coded
2 identifier is associated with the candidate item.

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4 20. The method of claim 16, wherein the database is configured to associate the visual
5 characteristic with the candidate item and the coded identifier.

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7 21. The method of claim 16, further comprising generating a visual signature from the
8 visual characteristic.

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10 22. The method of claim 16, further comprising identifying and associating the weight of
11 the item with the weight of the candidate item.

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13 23. The method of claim 16, wherein the visual characteristic is selected from the group
14 consisting of color, size, shape, or texture.

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16 24. An apparatus for positively identifying an item, the apparatus comprising:

17 means for reading a coded identifier associated with the item;

18 means for capturing a visual characteristic of the item;

19 means for associating the visual characteristic with a candidate item in a database;

20 and

21 means for verifying that the candidate item is associated with the coded identifier.

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23 25. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising means for confirming with a user that the
24 candidate item is associated with the item.

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26 26. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising means for notifying a user whether the
27 coded identifier is associated with the candidate item.

1 27. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a
2 processor and embodying one or more instructions executable by a processor to perform a
3 method for positively identifying an item, the method comprising:

4 reading a coded identifier associated with an item;

5 capturing a visual characteristic of the item;

6 associating the visual characteristic with a candidate item in a database; and

7 verifying that the candidate item is associated with the coded identifier.
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9 28. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises
10 confirming with a user that the candidate item is associated with the item.
11

12 29. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises
13 presenting to a user a plurality of candidate items associated with the visual characteristic of
14 the item and allowing the user to identify from the plurality of candidate items a candidate
15 item corresponding with the item.
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17 30. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises notifying
18 a user whether the coded identifier is associated with the candidate item.
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